

Docket No. HRT-0293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stevens et al.

Serial No. : Art Unit :

Filed : March 15, 2002 Examiner :

Title : Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures

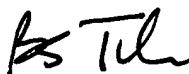
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(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)



(Signature)

March 15, 2002

(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment in the above application, which is a continuation of
copending application application Serial No. 09/411,095, filed October 4, 1999.

In the Claims:

Please cancel, claims 1-20 and add claims 21- 29, as follows:

21. A method of forming a lesion in heart tissue of a patient, comprising:
- providing an electrophysiological ablating device comprising at least one electrode;
 - creating an opening in a patient's chest, the opening passing through the chest wall and into the patient's thoracic cavity;
 - passing the electrode through the opening;
 - positioning the electrode adjacent to heart tissue; and